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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT "Spinne" Decimeter Wave Net in East Germany

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In early May 1953, [redacted] the Dienststelle des Stellvertreterers Ruer Bauwesen und Unterbauung (Construction Department of the Ministry of the Interior) that a sum of eight million eastmarks was to be spent on the Spinne Project in 1953. Vouchers [redacted] indicated that execution of the project in 1953 involved work on a line between Cottbus and Frankfurt/Oder, and in the Dresden and Rostock areas. 1 Prior to April, 400,000 eastmarks had been spent. Steel parts and towers required for the project were manufactured by the VEB Stahlbau (Engineering Firm) in Wismar. 2

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2. At a conference held at the Construction Department of the Ministry of the Interior on 6 July, State Secretary Willi Mayer reproached Colonel Horst Praessler for having made many mistakes in the execution of the Spinne Project. However, Praessler pointed out that he had not been given the official designs for the project and that no translation of the Soviet plan had been made available to his office. It came to light that the only German engineer familiar with the Soviet orders was e. ineerl Weirauch (fnu). Captain Fischer (fnu) of the Ministry of the Interior was in charge of construction work connected with the Spinne Project. 3

25X1 [redacted] Comment. This statement agrees with information obtained from a line diagram of the planned decimeter wave net. [redacted] According to referenced report, the Dresden-Hellerau-Balle line of the net was to have been completed by 1 April 1953. [redacted] the Dresden-Frankfurt/Oder line is to be completed in 1953 and work on the northern line to be started near Rostock.

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25X1 [redacted] Comment. It is believed that the VEB Stahlbau in Wismar will supply the material for the northern line of the net, while the antenna towers required for the southern line probably will be furnished by the VEB Stahlbau in Gossau or the VEB Alus.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] General. Colonel Schneider was previously known as being the  
 head of the Dienststelle des Stellvertreters fuer Bauwesen und  
 Unterbringung (military construction department). Engineer Wehrauch  
 may be identical with Oberbaumeister Wehrauch, who is in charge of radi-  
 engineering developments at the Bureau fuer Wirtschaftsafragen (Bureau  
 for Economic Affairs). Captain Fischer is reported for the first time

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[REDACTED]